

REMARKS

Claims 57-103 are pending in the present application. In the office action mailed December 15, 2004 (the "Office Action"), the disclosure was objected to based on informalities. Claims 57-103 were also rejected in the Office Action under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-74 of U.S. Patent No. 6,616,611 to Moehring.

The specification has been amended to include the text suggested by the Examiner, thus overcoming the Examiner's objection to the specification.

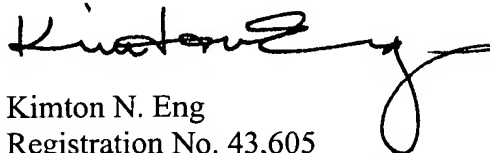
With respect to the rejection of claims 57-103 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) has been provided with this amendment. Consequently, the rejection of claims 57-103 for obviousness-type double patenting should be withdrawn.

Applicant would like to bring the Examiner's attention to a Petition to Accept Color Drawings or Photographs under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(a)(2) and (b)(2) ("Petition"), which was filed with the Patent Office on December 23, 2003. A decision on the Petition has not yet been received. Applicant requests the Examiner to consider the Petition and respond accordingly in order to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.  
Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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Terminal Disclaimer

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